

Appl. No. 10/032,241
Response dated November 21, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 21, 2003

Moreover, at least the Examiner should rejoin all six of the polymorphisms listed in claim 1. As stated above, these polymorphisms are all part of the same CETP gene, and it is not an undue burden to examine them all simultaneously. However, the restriction required by the Examiner does result in an extreme burden on Applicants. Since the Examiner is presently requiring that every possible combination of these six polymorphisms be searched and examined separately, the Examiner is requiring Applicants to file **62** divisional applications in order to full protect all possible combinations for just claim 1. If Applicants wish to fully protect all of the originally filed claims of this application, it will be necessary to file **195** divisional applications. This seems clearly ridiculous given that Applicants have merely filed on six polymorphisms, all present within a single gene, and three methods of using those polymorphisms. This restriction requirement would require Applicants to pay over \$150,000 in filing fees to fully protect six polymorphisms, which is clearly excessive.

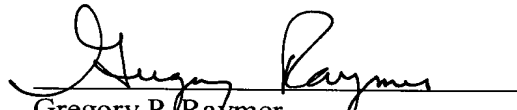
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-1445.

A Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

11/21/03


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